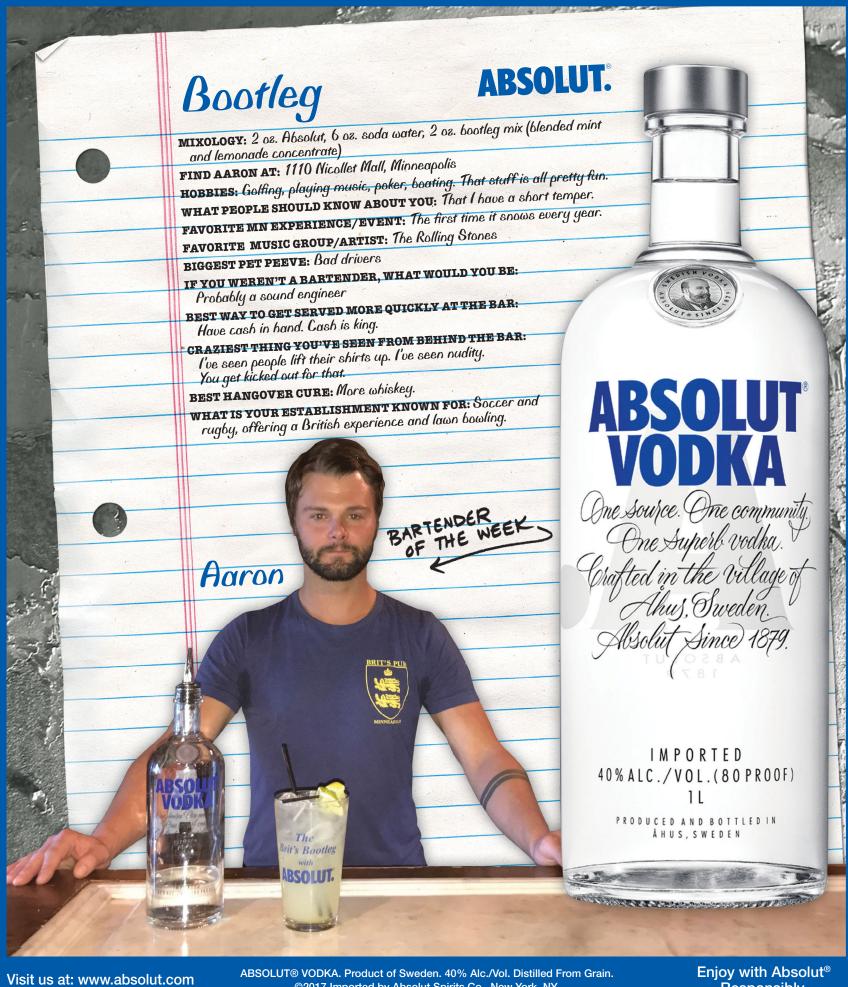
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# CITY PAGES





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#### CITY PAGES

August 2-8, 2017 VOLUME 37 | NUMBER 1913





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SAVAGE LOVE **CROSSWORD** 

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# **UPCOMING EVENTS** \*\*



\* AUGUST 19 \*





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#### THE SHORTLIST



#### THE STAT SHEET

37

Percentage of Minneapolis residents who are people of color

60

Percentage of St. Paul residents who are people of color

#### **\$2-\$8** million

The U.S. military's annual health care costs for soldiers seeking gender transition treatment

#### \$84 million

The military's annual cost for erectile dysfunction drugs to treat inattentive and malingering penises

"City Pages, are you being held hostage and this is your secret way to tell us you need help?"

Reader Angie Brown responds to "5 reasons to skip Guns N' Roses and see Nickelback instead," at citypages.com.

#### on wisconsin

**OUR NEIGHBOR** to the east broke all records for corporate welfare last week when it announced a \$3 billion giveaway to Foxconn, a Taiwanese electronics manufacturer promising to create 3,000 jobs.

The welfare tab comes in at \$1 million per job. Bloomberg estimates the redistribution of wealth will cost \$519 per citizen, headed to a company with \$4.9 billion in net profits

Even better: The deal also allows Foxconn to blow off a host of environmental laws. meaning Wisconsin's children will get an exciting new opportunity to spring for pollution cleanup down the road. Go welfare!

#### POPULAR STORIES

AT CITYPAGES.COM

There's a CREEPY NAKED GUY wandering around Minneapolis, and women are banding together to catch him

Don't you dare take my **LACROIX** away from me, science

#### **WOMAN IN FARGO**

tells Somalis 'we're gonna kill all of ya' [Video]

**ROGER WATERS'** Trump-loathing protest spectacle overwhelms the Xcel

Foreskins unite!

#### **ANTI-CIRCUMCISION GROUP**

stages protests in Minneapolis

# **URINE & DOPE**

Met Transit's Lake Street Station descends into a very stinky Gomorrah

heli Aguilar stepped off the bus at 7:30 a.m. She'd ridden it from her Uptown home to the Lake Street Station. She couldn't get away fast enough.

It smelled like piss. Loitering was epidemic. Two people were asleep. About 10 others badgered her for money, a couple saying "Fuck you!" when she refused. There wasn't a Metro Transit cop in sight.

"It was uncomfortable to be around these people," Aguilar says. "It was a lot of people who have nothing to do there."

Last week, Metro Transit took to Facebook: "We've heard you loud and clear. Lake Street Station needs some serious TLC." According to the July 26 post, that TLC amounts to elevator and escalator repairs, with "a total rehab" expected to begin sometime this fall.

Apparently, that's not the type of TLC for which the station is aching.

"Could you do something with the drunk people that hang out there?...They drink, pee, do drugs in front of kids," reads Christian Lopez's response.

"Can we maybe take care of the smell problem?" asks John Gamez.

Fifty-five-year-old Thomas Conway uses the station daily. He's been a patron for years.

"If you stand here long enough, you're going to see something of everything," he says. "This is a pretty active place. It's a helluva joint here, I tell you."

Seeing grown men so frequently urinating in public and the stink trail they leave bothers Conway something fierce. So does the fact he never sees transit cops around the area.

Out of all the things he's witnessed at the station, one stands out.

He was approaching the station's north tower lobby. In the corner of the



The problems range from random peeing to couples openly having sex.

glass-encased room, Conway came upon a woman performing oral sex on a man.

"Totally unfazed. Both of 'em. They didn't care that nobody was walking by."

Transit spokesman Howie Padilla says "the quality of life issues" are discussed regularly and high on the agency's priority list.

"We hear those things and take those things seriously," he says. "It's important for our riders to know we don't have a deaf ear or pay a blind eye."

As for what the upcoming "total rehab" involves in terms of safety and cleanliness, Padilla can't say. The details are still being finalized. —cory zurowski



# The Doctors Aren't In

#### Pioneer Jane Hodgson saw America's abortion crisis coming

ane Elizabeth Hodgson's career was a challenge even before it started. In the 1920s and '30s, educated women were supposed to work as teachers, if at all. Instead, Hodgson took after her dad, a doctor in Crookston. She graduated from the University of Minnesota Medical School in 1939, one of eight women in a class of 200.

In 1945, the day before Hodgson arrived in a small Florida town near her husband's military base, the doctor who hired her dropped dead. Hodgson, 30, inherited his patients. The poor black ones came in clutching cash to show they could pay. Hodgson told them to put their money away.

Two years later, the couple moved to St. Paul, and she opened her own clinic. The patients she remembered were those she couldn't help. Minnesota's abortion law, dating to 1886, was one of the country's strictest. Abortion was allowed only to save the mother's life. Anything else subjected both doctor and patient to criminal charges.

If the pleading women could afford it, they'd book another doctor, secretly. If they couldn't, they'd find another route, like going to the amateur whose day job was running a dry-cleaner. Sometimes they returned to Hodgson's clinic bleeding and she rushed them to the hospital.

She began her career opposed to abortion. These women changed her.

By 1970, this mild-mannered woman was plotting revolution. She found just the right patient: a 23-year-old married mother of three who was beset in her fourth pregnancy by rubella, a feverish illness that causes serious birth complications. Hodgson performed the abortion at St. Paul Ramsey Medical Center. Someone tipped the police. She

became the first American doctor charged for an abortion performed in a hospital.

As he handed down a conviction, Ramsey County Judge J. Jerome Plunkett recognized Hodgson's "forthrightness and courage."

That courage got her a 30-day suspended jail sentence, pending appeal. She never served a day, but the dragging appeals process meant Hodgson's medical license was suspended for three years.

Reprieve came from another Minnesotan: Justice Harry Blackmun, who wrote the opinion for the 7-2 majority in Roe v. Wade.

Hodgson returned to her practice and took on a second career as an activist. From the mid-1970s until her death 30 years later, Hodgson was a lead plaintiff or expert witness in numerous court battles. She sided against laws mandating the consent of parents for minors seeking abortions-winning a partial victory in the U.S. Supreme Court—and in favor of Minnesota reinstating the use of Medicaid payments for abortion, winning that one outright.

Always perfectly coiffed and sharply dressed-news stories noted calf-high boots and a white leather jacket-Hodgson won admirers. And made enemies.

"She tried to shelter me from what was happening," says Hodgson's daughter, Nancy Quattlebaum Burke, a partner at the Gray Plant Mooty law firm in Minneapolis. "But there were a lot of phone calls, a lot of letters, with... unfriendly approaches."

The battle didn't get to Hodgson. What did bother her was the increasing feeling she and a few others were going it alone.

Hodgson noticed how women seeking abortions were increasingly forced out of full-service hospitals, and into freestanding clinics like Planned Parenthood. The trend continued after her death in 2006.

Consider Minnesota: In 2010, at least 645 abortions-about 5 percent of that year's total-were carried out in Minnesota hospitals, down from about 1,000 a year in 2000. Last year, hospitals accounted for just 54.

Even the site of Hodgson's history-making procedure gave up. In 2011, Regions Hospital, formerly St. Paul-Ramsey, announced it was eliminating a "special service" clinic and ceasing elective abortions. A spokesman declined to comment if the closure had anything to do with the building's frequent protesters, who declared victory.

By walling off abortion from childbirth and other pregnancy care, hospitals effectively outsourced the controversy. No conservative board members or donors would desert them. No Catholic doctors would quit. No client would have to endure the rage of furious protesters.

They simply cast providers and women out on an island circled by sharks.

And the sharks smell blood. This year, Minnesota's Republicans passed a bill that would've blocked MinnesotaCare (our staterun Medicaid) from funding abortions. Another would've added stricter licensing standards through the state health department. Gov. Mark Dayton vetoed both bills, but they will be back.

Hodgson never shied from what she did, and could be unsparingly clinical, even blunt. But she wasn't an "abortionist." as critics said. She was a doctor. Abortion made her famous, but she also delivered 5,000-some babies. On the days she fought Minnesota's archaic law in court, she carried a beeper in her purse in case anyone went into labor.

Both responsibilities, Hodgson figured, came with the territory. You can't just hold



Mike Mullen

Mom's hand and smile at newborns. Those uncomfortable with this reality should "go be dermatologists or something."

America could use a few thousand more people like Hodgson, professionals with real credentials on all facets of pregnancy, willing to stick their necks out. Without them, this fight pits a dwindling pool of ever-braver doctors against a rising tide of hardcore conservatives.

Public opinion on the procedure is largely unchanged these past few decades. Most support legal abortion, while also backing some restrictions. What changed is the antiabortion groups got organized and went pro.

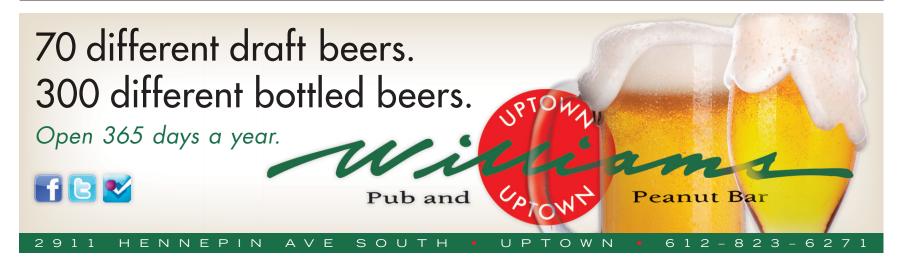
Meanwhile a generation of medical professionals who considered abortion part of a doctor's duties, people like Jane Elizabeth Hodgson, have died off. It's hard to see if there's a new one coming behind them.

Summing up her mother's feelings, Nancy Quattlebaum Burke says, "The mainstream wasn't, sort of, carrying their share of the weight. For her it was more an issue of how difficult that made it for women who needed help. Her response was always, 'Okay, I'll try to help serve others more."

Is there a doctor in the house?

mmullen@citypages.com

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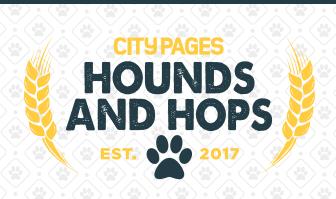


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#### FRINGE FESTIVAL 2017



Images courtesy of the Minnesota Fringe Festival

# DAY TRIPPING AT MINNESOTA FRINGE

Your **day-pass guide** to the massive theater fest **by neighborhood**BY JAY GABLER

here's a reason Fringe rhymes with binge, especially now that the Minnesota Fringe Festival is on a day-pass model. The wristband system, which debuted last summer to generally positive reviews, means that instead of selling tickets to individual shows, the Fringe sells passes good for every show in a given day.

In other words, if you're going to see one play you might as well see several: You've paid for them, and it's very much in the Fringe spirit to take chances and get outside your comfort zone. Of course, there's no need to operate purely on wild guesses. We're here to get you started with a guide to this year's 167 shows, organized by neighborhood for maximum venue-hopping convenience.

Once the festival starts, watch for reviews on citypages.com, and keep an eye on the Fringe's website for audience takes that drive a lot of buzz as shows compete for each venue's coveted encore slot, which is determined by attendance. Make a game plan, have fun, and stay hydrated.





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#### SOUTH MINNEAPOLIS

#### BRYANT-LAKE BOWL

810 W. Lake St., Minneapolis

You can grab beer and maybe a light snack at most Fringe venues, but the BLB is the only spot where you can straight-up order dinner to eat during a show. While you drink your Bloody Mary and munch on your grass-fed beef, you can enjoy a play (and try not to be distracted by the occasional cheer for a 10-pin strike in the next room).

The cozy and festive space lends itself to fun, small-scale shows, like David Lawson's Flyer Guy, a monologue based on the performer's years of handing out flyers in Times Square. Then there's The End of the World Sing-Along Hour, with an ensemble that reimagines the protest song for an era when nothing makes sense and everything's going to hell. It also wouldn't be Fringe without a coming-out story, and Penny Sterling has won national acclaim for her transition tale Spy in the House of Men: A One-Woman Show With Balls.

#### HUGE IMPROV THEATER

3037 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis

The Fringe's southern outpost, HUGE, provides a space ripe for audience engagement. Watch out, then, for *Knifeslingin'!* Portraying Ted "Critter" Montana, J. Merrill Motz promises to share his bladewielding secrets.

Satire also goes over well at HUGE, and gumshoe fans will want to catch ace actor Aidan Jhane Gallivan as a detective searching for the Larcenist Arsonist in *The Murmur of Murder*. The *Hamlet* riff *Swoopstake* features a twist on *Shit-Faced Shakespeare*, with Ophelia still hypnotized from a stage demonstration.

There's also some real drama happening at this comedy venue. With Fringe vet Pat O'Brien directing, Mortimer Productions is presenting a take on Edward Albee's *The Zoo Story*. Professional companies can only stage that one-act play as part of a longer work... but in the free-form Fringe, anything goes. (Don't tell that to "Critter" Montana.)

#### INTERMEDIA ARTS

2822 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis

Performers have a lot of room to roam on the big stage of this Lyndale Avenue theater and gallery. That makes it a good fit for epic (by Fringe standards) productions like **Full Metal Rabbit**. If that sounds like a mashup of '80s war movies and *Water-ship Down*, that's because it is.

The most intriguing spectacle scheduled for Intermedia Arts, though, is *Gravitational Collapse*, a space opera written by spoken-word star Cole Sarar with music by adventurous artist Dameun Strange. There's also a pretty perfect cast in place for the alternate-universe Powerpuff Girls comedy *Mayor Lear of Townsville*, featuring Natalie Rae Wass (*Fashion Risk*, or the Accidental Nudist) and Emily Rose Duea.

Intermedia Arts also hosts a showcase of artists curated by one of Minnesota's pioneering queer organizations, under the apt title <code>Wait...Didn'tPatrick'sCabaretClose?</code> (The answer is no, although its longtime location is now home to the Hook and Ladder Theater & Lounge.)

#### JUNGLE THEATER

2951 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis

The Jungle Theater is returning as a Fringe venue after a seven-year absence. That will give theater-goers the opportunity to take in the kind of shows that aren't often seen at the elegant Lyn-Lake venue.

For example, Al-Bahira Dance Theater is bringing a piece called *Dancing with the Enemy (and Other Celebrations of Life)* to the Jungle. Many of the other shows slated for the space, though, are darker. In one



case, literally darker: **The Migraine Room** (**Photophobia**) dramatizes a recent episode when creator Tim Cameron's migraines got so extreme that he spent six months in an almost constantly lightless room.

If you enjoyed the Jungle's own summer musical *Fly By Night*, you might check out Alexander Gerchak's musical adaptation of *Slaughterhouse-Five*. It's a time-bending meditation on the horrors of war, condensed from 288 pages into 50 minutes... with songs. Yep, sounds like Fringe.

#### PHOENIX THEATER

2605 Hennepin Ave. S., Minneapolis

**Blackout** has a home-field advantage at the Phoenix, as the acclaimed African-American improv troupe performs there every third Friday. Their Fringe gig, promising special guests, is sure to be a huge draw. Another surefire hit at the Phoenix is Strangerer Things, a comedic reenactment of the Netflix hit. It's presented by Tom Reed, whose satires of franchises like Twilight and The Hunger Games have made him one of the Fringe's most reliable

brand names.

The Phoenix is also a hotspot for ironic self-improvement this year, with David Mann's **Best of All Possible Worlds** and Ed Burke's **Your Motivational Power Hour!** both riffing on the topic of business speaking.

The most notorious show at the Phoenix—and, suddenly, in all of this year's Fringe—is **Sean Neely**. Technically an eponymous show "about Sean Neely," it's in fact the play about pedophilia that sparked litigation when the Fringe banned it last year. Although the Fringe was surprised when Neely revealed he planned to use his slot this year to perform a show actually titled *Having Sex With Children* 

*in My Brain*, at press time **Neely** was still on the schedule.

#### NORTHEAST MINNEAPOLIS

#### CRANE THEATER

2303 Kennedy St. NE, Minneapolis

The Crane Theater is a former appliance warehouse that's recently been converted into a performance space. It's a good thing that floor was built to hold refrigerators, because the Fringe is going to shake the Crane's foundations with a parade of dance performances.

There's disco (**We Would Not Exist With- out Disco**, a show exploring "one of the greatest human needs,"

which, true). There's hiphop (FUNKIN' Good Time, with plenty of popping and locking). There's modern dance, in both Minnesota Dance Ensemble's Carmen and in Twin Cities Dance Court's Passing

the Poison.
Square dancing? There Ain't
No More! is a one-man show,
but Willi Carlisle will at least
do the calling. Or, you can just

sit back and take in **Melody Mendis'** "like buttah" impersonation of Barbra.

#### RITZ THEATER MAINSTAGE

345 13th Ave. NE, Minneapolis

Carmen

The crown palace of Northeast Fringe venues has a few of this year's hottest draws

Bollywood Dance Scene, the sensation of the past few years' Fringing, don't have their own show this year (they're appearing as part of the Patrick's Cabaret showcase at Intermedia Arts, on August 12 only), but Fringe-goers can sate their desire for upbeat





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Indian song and dance with Neha Damle's comic mystery, *A Bollywood Twistery*.

Horror is another hot trend in local theater, and there's a lot of top-notch talent behind *The Last Bombardment*. Physicaltheater vets including Emily Dussault and Jay Kistler star in this adaptation of a short story about adorable babies who hide a nasty surprise.

**RomCom-Con** is the latest production from Kyle DeGoey, who was behind past years' popular musical satires of Oregon Trail and *Gilligan's Island*. Can Will (Aaron Cook) and Samantha (Erin Kennedy) find true love at a convention for fans of romantic comedies? Not without complications, because that's just how these things work.

#### RITZ THEATER STUDIO

345 13th Ave. NE, Minneapolis

Down the alley past the Ritz's bright facade is a smaller space, home to some of this year's quirkier shows. (Yes, this is Fringe, so that's saying a lot.)

The prize for this year's best show title goes to *The Buttslasher*, a melodrama about "the cheekiest villain ever." It's based on a true story, which you can Google at your own risk. It's not the only dark comedy at the Ritz inspired by life: Set in the world of Minnesota State Fair food competitions, *A Pickle* features stage star Angela Timberman (Guthrie Theater, Jungle Theater).

Other Ritz Studio shows take a harderedged look at life: *It Can't Happen Here* adapts Sinclair Lewis' suddenly relevant 1935 novel, while *Cocaine* updates a oneact drama from 1916.

#### STRIKE THEATER

824 18th Ave. NE , Minneapolis

Strike Theater was a new addition to last year's Fringe venue list, built to showcase sketch comedy, storytelling, and spoken word.

Accordingly, this is where you'll find onehanders (in theater parlance, one-person shows) like **The Banana Wars**, a politically

De Hjerteløse (The Heartless)

pointed show about U.S. military involvement in Central America. Ambitious? Sure, but if anyone can pull it off, it's lauded local actor Derek Lee Miller (Sandbox Theatre, Transatlantic Love Affair).

Speaking of politics, it's often said that the Trump administration must have Ronald Reagan rolling in his grave. Now the Gipper's rolling right into Nordeast, reincarnated by playwright Katherine Glover (last year's very funny *Celebrity Exception*) and actor Phillip Schramm. The cast of supporting characters in *Ronald Reagan: Time Traveler* include John Hinckley Jr. (Isabel Middleton-Watts) and Pope John Paul II (Erik Bredeson).

#### THE WEST BANK

#### SOUTHERN THEATER

1420 Washington Ave. S., Minneapolis

The Southern Theater's weathered pro-

scenium will see some strange and epic spectacles this year.
One example: Atlas Dynamo's Burnt Offerings, an apocalyptic conjunction of music (from the Belfast band Scream Blue Murmur) and spoken word (from local Fringe favorite Allegra Lingo).

Mike's Brass are a Minneapolis brass quintet that happens to include Theatre Pro Rata's leader Carin Bratlie Wethern. She directs *Rumpus*, a kid-friendly show combining music, dance, and poetry, inspired by Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*.

If you're looking for an escape to distant realms, try *Mnemosyne* (a science-fiction story with hypnotic choreography by Taja Will). Stick around for *De Hjerteløse (The Heartless)*, an epic from Norse mythology starring Jayme Godding (a standout in

Theatre Coup d'Etat's Antigone).

#### MIXED BLOOD THEATRE

1501 S. Fourth St., Minneapolis

Mixed Blood's newly expanded lobby should help cut down on the time you spend standing around on 15th Avenue waiting to see this year's most in-demand shows, a few of which always seem to land here.

Josh Carson—a ubiquitous comic actor who's really the Minnesota Fringe Festival's mascot, no matter what they try to make us believe about kittens and aliens—is doubling down at Mixed Blood this year. He's hosting **Repertoire Dogs** (famous scenes "recast" with celebrity impressions) and co-starring with Andy Rocco Kraft in **The Wright Stuff** (a goof on the invention of powered flight).

More must-see comedy comes from the women of Raw Sugar, who take on swim-dancing in *Synchronicity*; and from Joey Hamburger, who turns his signature rapid-fire wit on a parody of *Pinocchio*. Also at Mixed Blood, Fringe superstar Ben San Del presents some "supernatural speculations" in his storytelling show *Spec*.

#### THEATRE IN THE ROUND

245 Cedar Ave., Minneapolis

What might be the most essential show of this year's Fringe comes from right in the venue's West Bank neighborhood: *Making It Home*, a showcase spotlighting Somali storytellers who talk about the realities of their lives in Minnesota.

Beyond those realities, Theatre in the Round is also hosting several fantasies. One sure draw features Tyler Michaels and Tyler Mills, principals of the new Trademark Theater. Their Fringe show comes under the auspices of Bearded Men Improv, who roll "an actual 20-sided die" to determine

the course of Swords & Sorcery: The

Improvised Fantasy Campaign.

Fringe producers love to delve into weird little corners of history. In *Hello, IMust Be Going...* writer/director Garrett Rademacher zeroes in on the final years of Groucho Marx (Ari Hoptman, of the Coen Brothers' *A Serious Man*) in the 1970s, when the octogenarian had thirtysomething actor Erin Fleming as a close and controversial

companion.

#### RARIG CENTER ARENA

330 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis

The Fringe's other in-the-round space tends to draw the dramas, and this year's prime example is **Odd Man Out**, a homecoming story written and directed by Kory





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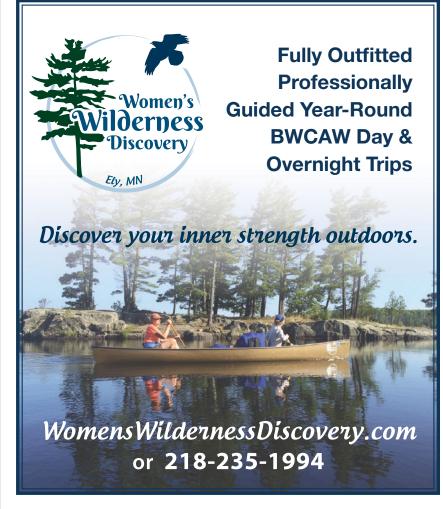


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LaQuess Pullam, one of the area's best and busiest theater artists.

Two other shows here are pegged to anniversaries, though differently timed by an order of magnitude. This year is the 50th anniversary of the Summer of Love, and "1967" has Baby Boomers sharing their memories of that tumultuous year. It's also the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, and Katie Versus the Devils takes a comedic look at the life of Martin Luther's wife, Katharina Von Bora.

Every Fringe has to have a high-concept Star Wars parody, and this year's iteration is The Tragedy of Obi-Wan Kenobi. From Chewie to the Emperor, the whole gang shows up in this—need it be said?—epic tale that casts poor ol' Ben as the villain.

#### RARIG CENTER THRUST

330 21st Ave. S., Main Floor, Minneapolis

This is the big one: Rarig's Thrust is the Fringe's largest venue, with an "Alpine Slope" of upper-tier seating that only the most rapturously received shows are able to fill. Will any of this year's offerings manage the feat?

Don't bet against Couple Fight 3: Weddings! This third iteration of a concept created by Anna Weggel-Reed and Tom Reed (a married pair themselves) reenacts actual arguments between an all-star cast of couples including Shanan Custer and Eric Webster, Levi Weinhagen and Laura Zabel, and last year's ringers Lacey and John Zeiler.

Weinhagen also shows up in IntermediatePhysicalComedyforAdvancedBeginners, a loopy lecture with his Comedy Suitcase partner Joshua Scrimshaw. Then Scrimshaw. Webster, and Custer take the stage with The Mysterious Old Radio Listening **Society**, presenting a pair of horrifically funny radio dramas.

Other contenders (watch the early reviews) include the Bollywood show Dancing Bare Feet; the pirate musical Get Hooked; Good Kids, a drama about sexual

assault starring students from Eagan High School; and sentimental favorite Wellstone: A Minnesotan Musical.

#### RARIG CENTER XPERIMENTAL

330 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis

This tiny space has only 99 seats, so a little word-of-mouth can lead to quick sellouts-consider making a reservation if there's a show here you really want to see.

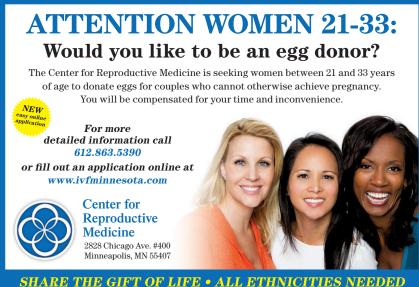
A top pick for this stage: Ifrah Mansour's one-woman How to Have Fun in a Civil War was a heart-wrenching look at the Somali conflict through a young girl's eyes. At the Fringe, she explores a refugee's journey in Finding Mohamed.

The Xperimental lineup also features two more of the Twin Cities' best actresses, starring in very different shows. Playwright Martin Zimmerman's On the Exhale will provide a powerful showcase for Jane Froiland as a mother coping, in her own way, with a tragic loss. Jen Maren, superb star of the History Theatre's Glensheen, presents Live From New York, He's a Prom Date! It's an autobiographical tale about how Maren's mom put her on The Sally Jessy Raphael Show because—yes, really she needed a prom date.

#### SITE SPECIFIC

As always, a couple of shows go off the beaten path. Vox Medusa, the most mystical of Fringe dance companies, is partnering with Infiammati FireCircus this year, so it's just as well they'll be outdoors at Boom Island Park for Medusa. In Bear Eats Bear, Texas playwright Lydia Blaisdell takes the Kenwood Community Center as the jumping-off point for a cassette-driven adventure into a postapocalyptic wilderness. Whoa.

The Fringe Festival runs August 3-13. Visit www.fringefestival.org for tickets and more information, or call 612-872-1212. **G** 



Accredited by: Diplomats of the Society for Assisted Reproductive Technologies, American College of OB/GYNs and Association for Reproductive Medicine.













# THE NEW TENANT

Former Piccolo space houses one of the best new restaurants in the Twin Cities



**TENANT** 

4300 Bryant Ave. S.,

Minneapolis;

612-827-8111;

tenantmpls.com

BY EMILY WEISS

ince its closing in the spring of 2016, Piccolo, chef Doug Flicker's outstanding small plates restaurant, has been mourned as if it were a beloved relative. But from its ashes comes Tenant, a charming New American joint brought to you by former Piccolo employees. This tiny dining room nestled in the East Harriet neighborhood of south Minneapolis is once again serving up inventive, satisfying food with a uniquely relaxed approach that just might define a new era of fine dining in the Twin Cities.

It's tempting to draw comparisons between Robbinsdale's crown jewel, Travail, and Tenant. There are strict seating times and a fixed multi-course tasting menu. The lines between front-

of-house and back-of-house are similarly blurred so that chefs in the kitchen also act as servers in the dining room. Both restaurants impress with technique-driven food and the kind of "everyone's a

VIP" treatment that make for destination dining.

But the similarities end there. Where Travail is flashy and extensive, Tenant

is more homey and edited. There are no plates buried under a dome of smoke, nothing is served to you dangling from a hook, and there's not a tank of liquid nitrogen in sight. The intention, says

co-owner Cameron Cecchini, which existed long before the actual restaurant space became available, is to feed people well, seasonably, and casually, at a reasonable \$50 price point, without sacrific-

ing quality. It's a tall order, but sometimes tight parameters make for the most inspired meals.

Indeed, the Tenant crew manages to do

Clockwise from top left: Mushroom and robiola cappelletti; Suffolk lamb saddle with warm potato salad; bigoli pasta with littleneck clams; lamb sausage and ricotta raviolo

a lot with relatively humble ingredients. Weeknight dinner staples like broccoli,

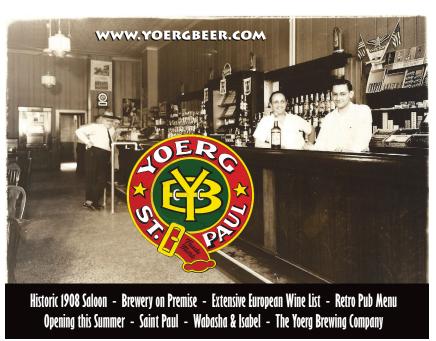
ham (okay, it's speck in this case, so, fancy ham), and cabbage are transformed into a gorgeous pasta course of salty, robiola-filled cappelletti (little hats!) in a complex and concentrated charred broth. Teeny pickled beech mushrooms and the smoky bits of speck give a little



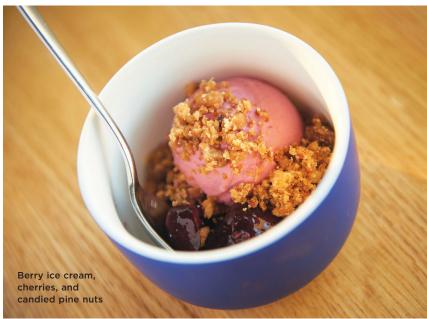












texture to the dish and keep the flavors balanced and vaguely Teutonic.

A Scandinavian-influenced dish of grilled salmon with warm potato salad and smoked trout roe sounds sort of "been-there, ate-that" in description, but tastes, somehow, totally fresh. The cornmeal-fried oyster topping off the dish should be saved for last, and used to trap any of the remaining silky, citrusy sauce.

Considering they are making about 30 portions of each of these dishes at a time, the execution of all of this is no easy feat. The staff creates and rotates in new dishes in every Tuesday, so as you read this, the menu may have completely changed. Even in the course of a week, or day to day, preparation on some dishes is altered according to what is available and pristine from Tenant's micro-scale suppliers. We noticed delicate stalks of asparagus were replaced with pearly Tokyo turnips in the first course. Fat English peas once nestled among strands of extruded pasta, tender glazed lamb shoulder, and Pecorino cheese were swapped for sweet rattlesnake beans, which are much less intense than they sound. No dish was diminished because of any of these changes; it was just a reminder that the menu here is very much a living, breathing thing.

Dinner generally starts lightly: for instance, a delicate cube of almost translucent hamachi glazed with XO sauce (a suddenly everywhere Cantonese condiment made from dried scallops with a kick of chili), juiced spring herbs, and the same peppery nasturtium leaves featured on our server's forearm tattoo. The plates then build to a crescendo with heartier

offerings, such as doppio-essentially a two-sided raviolo-striped with black garlic dough and filled with housemade ricotta and fennel-flecked Italian sausage. Pasta pops up quite a bit in these courses, but considering what you get for \$50 at Tenant, both in terms of food and overall experience, it's an absolute steal.

For context, here are some things I have spent roughly \$50 on in the last month that I wish I had spent on dinner at Tenant instead: a toast board, glass of wine, and slice of lemon cake at Bachelor Farmer; a serviceable mani-pedi plus tip: a fancy taco, an unfancy beer. and an underwhelming scallop dish at Baja Haus; a very dumb ergonomic neck pillow, a stack of trashy magazines, and a bag of Cheetos at the airport. Scratch that; I'd keep the Cheetos.

You can't do a la carte here, but what is served is carefully planned. Cecchini has worked out that a complete dinner is about 25 bites, so over the arc of your six courses, that's about what you'll get. We were delighted to leave without having to walk off that pop-a-button feeling nor immediately head to another nearby establishment for a supplementary burger.

From the minute you enter Tenant's intimate dining room, it's clear how much the staff emphasizes overall guest experience-and how many roles they all must juggle, seamlessly, in order to create the kind of evening they want their guests to enjoy.

"I was about to start my whole spiel about the wine pairings, but this song is going to end in three seconds so... excuse me," co-owner Grisha Hammes says before he darts to the turntable in

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#### **FOOD**



The dining space is intimate and homey.

the corner to change the record from Queen to Jay-Z. He then returns to pour us a palate-prepping glass of cava. Now that's just good hosting. There's a real sense that someone is thinking about every aspect of your experience, right down to the amenities in the bathroom.

And those with dietary restrictions and food sensitivities need not worry they'll be excluded. Cecchini says that one of the benefits to their model, aside from producing very little waste and having some predictability in the dinner rush, is that the kitchen can accommodate almost any ingredient issues. Let them know in advance (they'll ask you when they call to confirm your reservation), and any gluten, nuts, and cheeses can be omitted or substituted easily. "The only thing I'd say we can't offer is a full vegan tasting menu. Based on our style and the ingredients we use, it just wouldn't be satisfying or fair to the person eating that dinner." See? They're thinking about you even if you can't eat at their restaurant. Hospitality!

On the very brief, hand-written menus, there's only one other line item, and that's the option to pair your meal with three wines: a white, a red, and something sparkling for \$25. Surprised by the offering of a sweet red with a reputation for being about as sophisticated as a Funyun, I asked Hammes if he thinks it's going to be the new rosé.

"So, are you trying to bring back Lambrusco?"

"No," he shakes his head, smiling. "It's not like that. We aren't trying to do anything." Then he catches himself and adds, thoughtfully, "Except make sure everyone has a really good time."

Consider that goal achieved.



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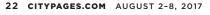
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FRIDAY MST3K returns to Minnesota P. 26

SATURDAY Insight Brewing gets fruity P. 27

**SUNDAY** Red Stag hosts a block party **P. 28** 

#### WEDNESDAY 8.2

#### COMEDY

#### ARJ BARKER

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"I started a DIY channel on YouTube," Arj Barker reports. "I decided to learn how to work with wood, and I thought I might as well film it and make use of it. It's called Do It Myself." Not a straight-on parody, like Henry Phillips' cooking videos, Barker says the humor in his series just flows naturally out of his attempt to complete a given project. "Ultimately, I'm far from an expert, and don't know what I'm doing," he adds. "I pretend I'm an expert, and sometimes I'll flat out admit I'm not." Most episodes are shot around his house in Australia, where he'll return at the end of this tour. "I always want to make time for my favorite clubs, and Acme is certainly one of those," he says, "that's why I'm delighted to have my final week in the United States be spent with you guys." Barker is currently developing a new hour. "I'm documenting the downside of all the technology we have. Sometimes I'll mention the perks, but that's the thesis." It seems the more automated we are, the less we're part of the equation. At least, that's what Barker has noticed. "It's all comedy and laughs, No. 1," he assures. "I'm not trying to save the world, I just like to comment on it." 18+. 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$15-\$18. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis: 612-338-6393. Through Saturday -P.F. WILSON

#### PERFORMANCE CIRCUS JUVENTAS: NORDRSAGA

CIRCUS JUVENTAS

The largest performing youth circus in North America is right here in town. This summer, talented kids and teens will take to the big top for *Nordrsaga*, a piece where vikings, valkyries, and gods race against each other in the land of Asgard in search of Thor's hammer. As the story unfolds, there will be feats of strength, acrobatics, and balance,



DAN NORMAN

including a giant ship that swings to and fro. Tickets sell out quickly for these programs, so be sure to check out circusjuventas.org for more info. 7 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays, plus Wednesday, August 2; 1 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. \$17.50-\$40.1270 Montreal Ave., St. Paul; 651-699-8229. **Through August 13**—JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

#### THURSDAY 8.3

#### FRINGE FESTIVAL

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

It's been a big year of change for the Minnesota Fringe Festival. For her first year as executive director, Dawn Bentley plans to stay the course. "Understanding how this machine operates is my main goal for this year," she says. That means that the all-play ticketing system that debuted last year will return, so buying admission for one show means getting a wristband for the day. The festival will be reviving the VIP pass (formerly known as the "ultra pass") option this year, for super fans who want in on the entire run. Another welcome return: This year the Jungle Theater will be a Fringe venue for the first time since 2010. Republic at Seven Corners will once again be Fringe Central, the official hangout for artists and patrons to quaff a brew and share the scoop on what's hot and what's not. With 168 different shows over 11 days, there's a lot to take in-as Bentley knows well. "I've been a Fringe attendee for much of the last 23 years, so I'm very interested in learning the inner workings," she says. "Next year we'll be celebrating a quarter-century, which is no small feat for an arts organization that operates, literally, on the fringe." Plan your Fringe by checking out the schedule at www.fringefestival.org. Day passes are \$16 weekdays, \$22 Saturdays and Sundays (\$5 kids); VIP passes are \$200. Through August 13 - JAY GABLER

# DRINKS/SCIENCE SCIENCE OF BREWING BAKKEN LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

Thursday's party at the Bakken is a night of fun, flavor, and science. The Smithsonian-affiliated museum, located just off of Lake Calhoun, is hosting an evening dedicated to the science of brewing. Folks from Fair State, Bauhaus, Tin Whiskers, and Boom Island will be pouring samples and talking about the finer details of making beer. Meanwhile Prohibition (kombucha), Superior Switchel Co. (an all-natural electrolyte drink), and Five Watt Coffee will round out the lineaus with delivious non

drink), and Five Watt Coffee will round out the lineup with delicious nonalcoholic offerings. The happening isn't just about the samples: Each business will discuss how their ingredients interplay, so you can try your own flavor concoctions at home. Cocktails and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26 ▶

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#### **A-LIST**



#### CONTINUED FROM THURSDAY ▶

snacks will also be served, all with a live Americana soundtrack from Elizabeth Ghandour & the Highburners. 21+. 5:30 to 9 p.m. \$15; \$20 with tasting pass. 3537 Zenith Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-926-3878. **—LOREN GREEN** 

#### ART/PARTY ART, VINO, CALAVERAS

SOLAR ARTS BUILDING

Join Twin Cities Latinx artists (in case you haven't heard, many people of Latin American heritage prefer this term to Latino/Latina) at the Solar Arts Building, where you'll find art, music, and wine. It's all in support of the annual Festival de las Calaveras, happening later this fall. During the party, Pacha Glaviz will be painting portraits live while local artistsincluding Savita Bettaglio, Gustavo Lira, Dougie Padilla, Deborah Ramos, and Tina Tavera—exhibit their work. There'll be ceramics, paintings, prints, photography, and handmade corn paper on display, with tunes provided by DJ Demex. It's taking place during northeast Minneapolis' First Thursdays event, so you can wander to other studios during the evening as well. 7 to 9 p.m. Free. 711 15th Ave. NE, Studio 209, Minneapolis; 763-234-5069. —SHEILA REGAN

FRIDAY 8.4

#### FILM/PERFORMANCE MYSTERY SCIENCE THEATER 3000 LIVE

HISTORIC STATE THEATRE

"The big thing was doing Cinematic Titanic live," says Mystery Science Theater 3000 mastermind Joel Hodgson of the show's new live stage version. "We did live shows over the course of six years, and that really helped the new MST3K

so much in terms of being able to do it live." Performing the movie-riffing show live presents a unique set of challenges. "The big thing is you have to be on your toes, because you're editing while the audience is laughing," he explains. "Sometimes they'll laugh at a joke real hard that they might not have laughed at that hard the night before, and it could eclipse the setup for the next joke. So, you're constantly rearranging your material." It's that material that made MST3K an American comedy institution back in the late '80s and early '90s. "I think what made it unique was we used very Midwestern references, even when the show went national," Hodgson says. "We would talk about things we knew about and talk about regional things and personalities like Barry ZeVan. We'd often do impressions of him." Repeat cable showings allowed audiences across the country to sink their teeth into the show and dissect many of those references. "MST3K is known for doing very eclectic Midwestern references at a time when that was not the fashion at all." There will be two different performances, the first being the film Eegah at 7 p.m., while the 10 p.m. show will a feature a surprise movie complete with different wrap-around sketches. 7 and 10 p.m. \$39.50-\$49.50. 805 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-339-7007. - P.F. WILSON

#### THEATER THE HOLLER SESSIONS

**GUTHRIE THEATER** 

Despite becoming less prevalent to mainstream listeners, jazz has influenced every musical style to arise in its wake. This ingrained influence is explored with irresistible enthusiasm in playwright Frank Boyd's The Holler Sessions. Patterned as a radio broadcast, this one-man show at the Guthrie's



Dowling Studio finds Boyd channeling a frenetic Kansas City disc jockey who's infatuated with jazz. Feverishly extolling both the virtues and vices of the form's most innovative musicians, timeless compositions, and landmark recordings. Boyd plays the role with an evangelical zeal that borders on the fanatical. The character's emotional fervor applies not just to the music but also to the hardscrabble history of a culture capable of sparking such an impassioned outpouring of musical expression. Rather than academic arguing, the production demonstrates the enduring potency of the music with captivating song selections. Wisely enough, it seems that even the irrepressibly obsessed Boyd knows when to quiet down and let the music speak for itself. 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays; 7 p.m. Sundays through August 13; 1 p.m. Sunday, August 20. \$9. 818 S. Second St., Minneapolis; 612-377-2224. Through August 20 -BRAD RICHASON

ART/FESTIVAL

#### UPTOWN ART FAIR

UPTOWN MINNEAPOLIS

Yes, the crowds can cause irritable congestion; with some 40,000 visitors the Uptown Art Fair is second only to the Minnesota State Fair in terms of overall attendance. And yes, the displayed works can vary wildly in terms of aptitude and originality. But such a wide range is exactly what makes the fair so fascinating. Organized around 12 disciplines, the three-day event highlights an enormously diverse spectrum from over 350 contributing artists. Providing experience for aspiring artists, the Youth Art Fair in Calhoun Square turns the spotlight on works from those between the ages of 8 and 18, while edible inventiveness can be found at the Kitchen Window Culinary Arts Competition. Should the latter induce hunger, over 23 food vendors have enlisted to satisfy cravings,

or attendees can opt for the liquid refreshments at the Indeed Brewingsponsored beer gardens. Meanwhile, the festival's sister event, Powderhorn Art Fair, will offer a variety of art to peruse as well. For more info, visit uptownartfair. com. Noon to 8 p.m.Friday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Free, 3001 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Through Sunday -BRAD RICHASON

SATURDAY 8.5

FESTIVAL/FILM

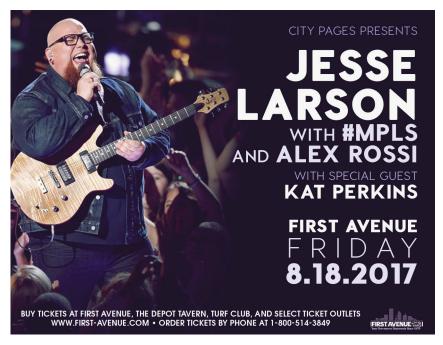
#### 2017 SOUARE LAKE FILM & MUSIC FESTIVAL

SQUARE LAKE

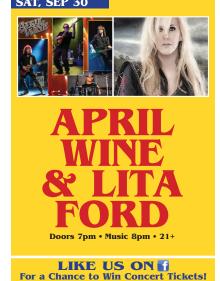
Now in its 15th year, the Square Lake Film & Music Festival is a day filled with local music and short films. Folks who bike to the festival can meet up with crews at the HUB Bike Co-op and Cycles for Change (riding to the event also scores you cheaper admission tickets). During the day, a variety of Twin Cities bands will take the stage, such as supergroup Gramma's Boyfriend, the folksy Roma di Luna, blues rockers the Black Eyed Snakes, plus Tony Peachka, the Sunken Lands, and Monica LaPlante. Over 50 short films and animations will screen, including a documentary about Duluth violinist and songwriter Gaelynn Lea. As is tradition with this celebration, a local band will create a live score for a noted silent film. This year, ZULUZULUU is up for the challenge, creating new music to George Melies' Voyage dans la Lune (Voyage to the Moon) (1902). Tickets and more info can be found at www.squarelakefestival.com. 2 p.m. to 1 a.m.; bike rides meet at 10 a.m. \$35; \$15 if biking. 13359 Partridge Rd. N., Stillwater. -JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 ▶











# ART/FESTIVAL 2017 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION HOT METAL POUR

FRANCONIA SCULPTURE PARK
It may already be hot outside,
but the artists coming to town
for the Hot Metal Pour will be
dealing with temps even higher.
During the day, they will be
working with 4,000 pounds
of molten iron as they pour
materials into molds. They will
use a centuries-old technique,
and visitors will be able to get



up close to view the process. Take a behind-the-scenes tour, and enjoy rhythmic live music from Savage Aural Hotbed. Noon to 8 p.m. Free. 29836 St. Croix Trail, Shafer; 651-257-6668. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

CONTINUED FROM SATURDAY ▶

# DANCE/FESTIVAL HERE HERE 2017: A LIVE MUSIC AND MOVEMENT FESTIVAL

THE CEDAR

The composer and choreographer pairings are once again surprising, poetic, and original for this second-annual event of live music and movement. Dance and theater artist Sharon Picasso has teamed up with Queen Drea, a performance artist and maker of soundscapes, promising a boundary-defying amalgam of sensory innovation. Dancer and choreographer Maggie Bergeron and bass pioneer Nicholas Gaudette (the two also curated the evening) will no doubt be revelatory. Mover Margaret Ogas and saxophonist Ivan Cunningham (Jelloslave cellist Michelle Kinney's son, y'all!) have assembled a quintet that will point out the directions in which a new generation of performing artists is taking us. 7 p.m. \$8-\$18. 416 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis: 612-338-2674. — CAMILLE LEFEVRE

#### BEER INSIGHT FRUIT JAMBOREE

INSIGHT BREWING

Beer releases are like block parties with souvenirs. This weekend, Insight is bringing back its popular Doe Eyes saison, a late-summer seasonal that's brewed with, on average, a pound of cherries per pint. They'll sell limited supplies of the beer in take-home bottles, and other fruited beers will be on tap throughout the day, including Strawberry Wit, Peach DankBot, Oaked Doe Eyes, Raspberry Hell Chicken, and Grapefruit Trollway. Meanwhile, the

'90s will come to life via five different themed cover bands: Trompe Le Monde (Pixies), Fistful of Datas ('90s alternative), Pleezer (Weezer), Alive (Pearl Jam), and Lithium (Nirvana). Hit up eBay for a vintage Lollapalooza shirt and come get in line for six distinct fruit-forward beers. A portion of the \$2 entry fee goes toward educational nonprofit Sunny Day Earth Solutions. Noon to 10 p.m. \$2. 2821 E. Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-722-7222. —LOREN GREEN

SUNDAY 8.6

# RED STAG BLOCK PARTY: IN CAHOOTS

RED STAG SUPPERCLUB

The local beer scene is a tightknit community with plenty of camaraderie. There's also competition. At Red Stag's annual block party, you get both of these things, as seven beers are pitted against each other in a friendly bout where fans vote for their favorites. Each variety is a collaborative effort between two local breweries. This year's teams are Modist/ Dangerous Man. Fulton/Bad Weather. Schell's/Indeed, Surly/Steel Toe, Bang/ Fair State, Bauhaus/Sociable Cider Werks, and Bent Paddle/Able. All seven beers are unique to the event, and the team results are often hard to predict. What will happen when a cidery works with a German-inspired brewery? How will the outspoken Surly collaborate with the quiet-natured Steel Toe? There are many questions, and the answers can only be found in a plastic cup outside at the Supperclub. Music is another highlight of the fest. Get down to the likes of Catbath, RLGDPPL, Graveyard Trio, Black Market



MARK VANCLEAVE, STAR TRIBUNE

Brass, the Blind Shake, 4onthefloor, and Epitome No Question. A portion of beer sales go to a charitable cause selected by the winning brew team. 2 to 8 p.m. Free. 509 First Ave. NE, Minneapolis; 612-767-7766.—LOREN GREEN

#### OVER THE RAINBOW: LAST DAYS OF NYE'S

CORNER STORE GALLERY NE

Who wouldn't want one last chance to drink in an eveful of Nve's shenanigans? Photographers Mike Madison and Steven Cohen clearly did. The result is a lively show of Nye's Polonaise Room's last days as one of the last authentic drinking, community, and polka experiences in town. If you blinked during Art-A-Whirl this year, you might have missed this exhibition's opening, so a special closing reception is being held this weekend. The World's Most Dangerous Polka Band (the house band at Nye's for decades) will be on hand to enliven the activities. Take a look, reminisce, maybe even weep as you dance your partner round and round. 5 to 10 p.m. Free. 501 22nd Ave. NE, Minneapolis; 612-788-1294. Now through Sunday —CAMILLE LEFEVRE

MONDAY 8.7

#### BOOKS LAURIE PENNY

MAGERS & QUINN BOOKSELLERS
Laurie Penny is a British journalist, essayist, and activist whose informal, entertaining, and passionate style often succeeds in making radical ideas seem both reasonable and realizable. Her new book, *Bitch Doctrine: Essays for Dissenting Adults*, is a collection of pieces written between 2013 and 2016, "usually under savage deadline pressure," as she states in the introduction, "under the full glare of online scrutiny." In other words, the pieces weren't necessarily

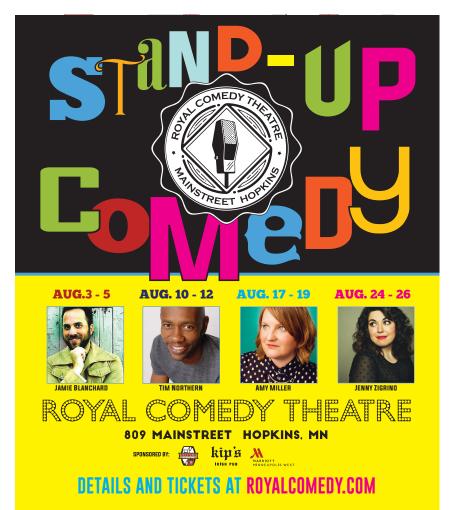
written for the ages, but they speak incisively to the present, whether making a classically socialist case for the reduction of work, showing how an inborn romanticism can flourish when loosed from "the confines of the traditional, monogamous, nuclear family," or more generally trying to plot a post-Trump, post-Brexit course "between the exhaustion of perpetual outrage and the numbness of normalisation." 7 p.m. Free. 3038 Hennepin Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-822-4611. —DYLAN HICKS

TUESDAY 8.8

#### CATS/FESTIVAL CAT VIDEO FESTIVAL 2017

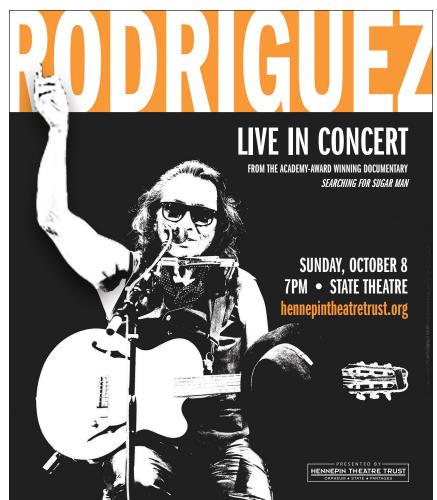
CHS FIELD

Summer in Minnesota just isn't complete without a shitload of cat clips. Since 2012, the Cat Video Festival has drawn thousands of crazy cat people and celebrities alike (Grumpy Cat and Lil Bub have both attended in past years) to the Walker, the Minnesota State Fairgrounds, and the festival's current home, CHS Field. The evening is exactly as advertised: a celebration of cat videos. Funny, awkward, and just plain adorable, the festival's mix includes classic feline shorts along with brand-new films nominated by local cat enthusiasts. Cats are (ironically) not allowed inside the festival grounds, because the evening will feature fireworks and other activities that will likely make your pets lose their minds. In addition to the main attraction, there will also be live music. a special kids' zone, an artists' alley, and concessions. The cat video screenings will kick off right around 8 p.m. Don't forget to wear your finest cat sweatshirt or, if you're a real cat person, just wear whatever because it's all covered in cat hair anyway. Tickets and more info can be found at www.catfestmn.com. Gates open at 6 p.m. \$10; \$75 VIP. 360 N. Broadway St., St. Paul. -PATRICK STRAIT











# **FAMILY AFFAIRS**

Landline offers a '90s-era take on a conventional infidelity plot



BY TONY LIBERA

he name Landline suggests both a period piece and some crucial plot element revolving around traditional home phone services, but oddly enough this movie is only the former—a time capsule from 1995 that focuses on unfaithfulness while casually reminding us how much pay phones and going to the store to buy CDs sucked.

Landline explores the infidelities perpetrated by two members of the Jacobs family and the repercussions felt by the Jacobses as a whole. Engaged-to-bemarried Dana (Jenny Slate) runs into an old college flame (Finn Wittrock) at a party, and a second-chance encounter at the record store leads to an affair. At the same time, younger sister Ali (Abby

Quinn)—a cursing, drinking, drug-using high schooler-stumbles upon a floppy disk containing her copywriter father's (John Turturro) love poems to a mysterious C, and teams up with Dana to find out C's identity.

Through their limited sleuthing, Dana and Ali begin to develop a strong sisterly bond that's complicated by Dana's fling and Abby's own uncertain romantic relationship.

In a cast featuring Slate, Turturro, and Edie Falco, it's Abby Quinn who steals the show. She makes a convincing disaffected high schooler, but also readily handles more mature issues as her precocious and wild character struggles with drug use, her father's infidelity, and the inevitable heartstring tugs that proceed the vast unknown of the college experience. Ali's at an age where she's discovering who she is, along with her family's cheating ways. As much as the plot rolls because of Dana and their father, it's Abby who is most affected by her relatives' unfaithfulness.

Landline features strong performances, but ultimately feels too by-the-numbers. Were it not for the temporal setting, there wouldn't be much distinguishing this movie from any other cheating dramedy. Here there are two instances, sure, but both play out pretty much as you'd expect. It's clever at times, but there are certainly no surprises here.

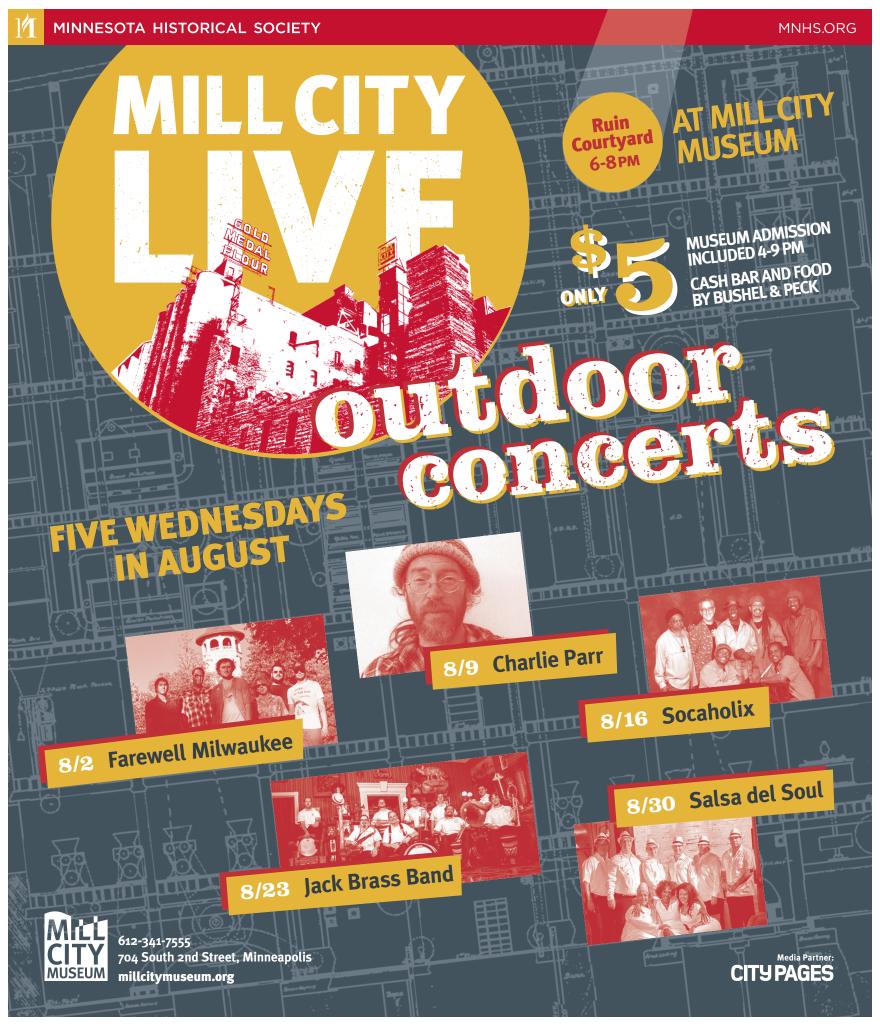
There also seems to be a missed opportunity to leverage the era's difficulties. The movie's poster reads, "1995. When people were harder to reach," which is meant to be witty marketing double entendre, but in execution, the characters don't have any trouble at all reaching

#### LANDLINE

directed by Gillian Robespierre Edina Cinema, now playing

each other. In fact, they bump into one another with surprising ease given the New York City setting. And there's nothing about the plot at its core that feels inextricably tied to the era. Nobody is overheard on the landline. Nobody loses another person because there are no cell phones. The floppy disk could have been a random folder on the family desktop, and we're back in 2017.

Ultimately, if Landline were set today, it would probably be passed over as another indie take on a familiar storyline. That doesn't justify transplanting it to the '90s, though, it justifies a more novel approach. @



# STREET Style

#### FEST DRESSED Cool looks at Rock the Garden on July 22. BY AMY GEE









#### MICHELLE DIMUZIO

24, DEVELOPMENT OFFICER AT A NONPROFIT

#### What are you wearing?

Third Eye Sunglasses, dress from Amazon, Forever 21 sandals.

#### Describe your style:

Usually depends on my mood and activities for the day.

#### Where do you get style inspiration?

Prince-spiration! And many other musicians. I admire their funky, unique, and bold styles.

#### Who are your music style crushes?

Caroline Smith, the Staves, Lizzo, M.I.A., Noname. Jamila Woods. Ohmme. and Overcoats.

#### CHANGÓ DIVINE

20, URBAN DESIGNER, CULTURAL CURATOR, INTERDISCIPLINARY BLACK ARTIST

#### What are you wearing?

Fila shoes, thrifted jeans and shirt, Yankees cap.

#### Describe your style:

The intersection between banjee and boujee... timeless black boy steez.

#### Where do you get style inspiration?

Chicago trap stars, Frederick Douglass Boulevard and W 125th Street in Harlem.

#### Who are your music style crushes?

#### KATIE SCHUTROP

31, INFLUENCER, SOCIAL MEDIA

#### What are you wearing?

Zara top and skirt. Dolce Vita booties. Ray-Ban aviators, Urban Outfitters bag.

#### Describe your style:

Versatile and modern with an element of fun.

#### Where do you get style inspiration?

My friends, traveling, art and music shows,

#### Who are your music style crushes? Solange and HAIM.

#### **ALINA HOOPER**

28, DIGITAL PROJECT MANAGER

#### What are you wearing?

Navy blue floral print dress from Lulus, Superga Cotu sneakers, Andes canvas tote bag.

#### Describe your style:

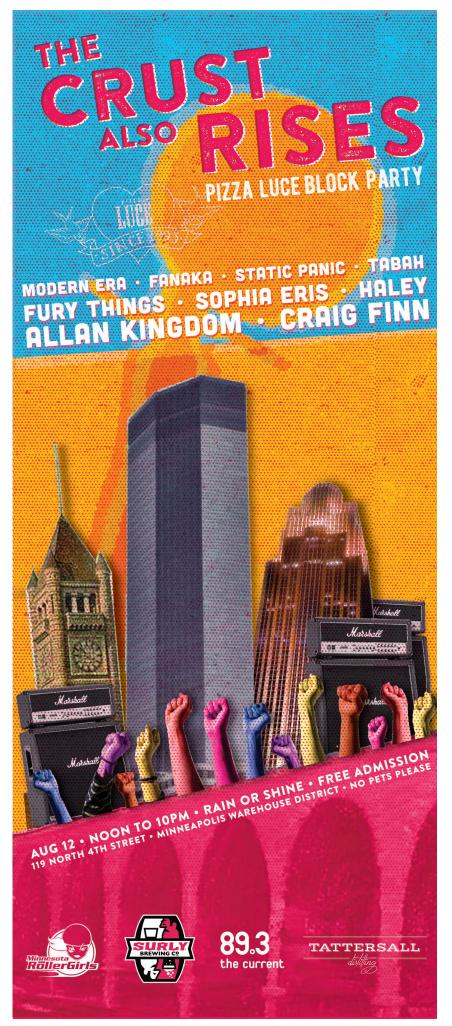
Modern, comfortable, chic, and eclectic.

#### Where do you get style inspiration?

Travel, fashion blogs, street style, and art. I'm also lucky to know many stylish and brilliant women.

#### Who are your music style crushes?

Solange Knowles, Zoe Kravitz, and Diana Ross.





# Arj

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# THE BEST ISN'T OVER

Chan Poling looks back at the Suburbs' past, but keeps moving forward

BY ERICA RIVERA



JAY SMILEY

han Poling's collar is untucked. Fixing it is the kind of thing a wife might do before her husband left the house, but the 59-year-old Suburbs frontman has been a widower since 2011. Poling's outfit—sport jacket, denim-esque button-up shirt with pocket square, slacks—complies with the stately University Club's dress code, but he's still a bit rumpled on this Friday morning. His silver hair is combed, but damp. His eyebrows are unruly, his whiskers white.

Blame aging. Or maybe the 10 a.m. meeting time. Poling remarks that coffee at a country club is an "evolution" from the man he used to be—rambunctious frontman of the Suburbs, the renowned new wave band he formed with Bruce Allen, Michael Halliday, Hugo Klaers, and Blaine John "Beej" Chaney in 1977.

Though Poling and Klaers are the only original members remaining, the Suburbs' verve is undiminished on their new album, *Hey Muse!* "T'm not saying it's the best album we've ever made—but I *am* saying that," Poling teases in his deep, silken voice. "We believe in this record and people are responding to it." ("Responding" is an understate-

ment; the band netted more than \$50,000 to record the album through a "funraiser" on its website earlier this spring.)

"I think this is the best of the Suburbs' late mature records," says John Munson, Poling's New Standards bandmate and long-time buddy. "The band feels fully gelled and involved now. The tunes are occasionally wistful, but never maudlin, and they are chock full of hooks."

The album is pulsing, danceable, fun, but there's an undercurrent of seriousness. The most boisterous song on the album, "When We Were Young," starts nostalgic and celebratory—"When we were boys/We fell in love with the loudest noise"—but then takes a darker turn. "When I say, 'It's just so tragic now you're gone,' I mean it," Poling explains. "It's kind of sad. We've lost people along the way."

Of the band members, Allen died in 2009, Halliday bowed out due to arthritis, and Beej took a "leave of absence" in 2014 due to "serious health issues." "Do we all miss Bruce, Beej, and Michael?" Munson asks. "Yeah, of course. Just as we miss our beautiful smooth faces. Ain't nothing to do about it."

As for Poling's wife, Eleanor, she died at age 51, in their bed, from brain cancer. Poling describes it as "the most painful thing I think I've ever gone through ... just brutal." But the maxim "time heals" turned out to be true; every day since her death has hurt a little bit less. "The worst it is now is kind

THE SUBURBS

perform at First Avenue, Friday, August 4, 7:30 p.m. of a pissed-off confusion, like 'What the fuck? Why did that have

to happen?' The real tear-inducing, gutwrenching feeling is kind of tamped down a little bit now," he says.

Nearly four years ago, Poling sold the hobby farm in Prior Lake where the couple raised horses and moved to Cathedral Hill in St. Paul. Once the initial grief eased, Poling says he felt "freed up" creatively. "A great stress was relieved and I've kind of cut loose into the world, like 'What else is there to do?' Eleanor lived a very big life. When I saw that, just gone, I realized, *this is our time*. So what do you want to do? Do you want to watch TV?"

The answer, obviously, was no fucking way.

"Chan is consistently one of the most florid, unprecious, and prolific cats I know," Munson says. "If there was any significant break in his productivity, I did not really perceive it. The ideas are always there." As songs arrived unbidden, Poling recorded them on-the-go with his iPhone. As opposed to his younger days, when he tried to write what he thought would be "catchy or popular," now "I just write what pops in my head and makes me happy," he says.

And what makes him happy would seem to be love. Of all kinds. The father of three and grandfather of two says, "I have lots of loves: my family and kids and friends and... lovely relationships. I like romance."

And while Poling has a "lust for life" (read: wine), he says he's trying to take better care of himself. "I'm not perfect. I should probably hit the gym a little more," he admits. "Some of our friends never bothered with that. They just loved that lifestyle of smoking and drinking and drugs. That was their lifestyle until it killed them. I have no interest in that."

Here, Poling's pale blue eyes appear misty. Sensing something left unsaid, I offer to turn off the recorder if it will facilitate a confession. He insists he doesn't have one. "You think I'm circling around something, but I'm just circling," he says. "It's your article, but I wouldn't make a big theme about 'the rejuvenating life."

When I ask what he means, he explains, "I mean life is complex. I do love life... but a lot of artists struggle with depression and ways of dealing with that. I've been there. I know a lot of people who have been there. But I'm here now. And I'm loving it." After an awkward silence, he adds, "I feel like I'm talking myself into a strange place."

"A lot of the articles about you skew optimistic. Are you saying that's not the whole story?" I ask him.

"I've seen and experienced a lot of stuff and I've got to find a way to come out of it with a life-affirming credo or method to go forth each day. But it's not all candy-colored roses. I kind of like a mix."

"A mix of pain and blessings?" I offer.

Poling laughs. "Pain and blessings, yeah. But it's very important to count your blessings."



Saturday, August 5

Maggie Bergeron & Company Presents

#### **HEAR HERE 2017!** A LIVE MUSIC AND **MOVEMENT FESTIVAL**

Doors: 7pm / Show: 7:30pm / All Ages / \$8-18 ADV/DOS

Sunday, August 6 The Cedar Presents

#### **SONGS OF KABIR:** THE MYSTIC POET

by Pooia Goswami Payan

Doors: 7pm / Show: 7:30pm / All Ages / \$15 ADV | \$20 DOS

Visit thecedar.org to view more show listings!

Friday, August 11 The Cedar, Radio Pocho and KFAI Present

#### CENTAVRVS

with DJ Miguel Vargas of Radio Pocho

Doors: 7pm / Show: 8pm / All Ages / \$15 ADV | \$18 DOS

Saturday, August 12 Live Nation Presents

#### RON FUNCHES

Doors: 7pm / Show: 7:30pm / All Ages / \$25

Sunday, August 13

The Cedar and KFAI Present

#### SSINGSSING

with Daniel & The Real Feels

Doors: 7pm / Show: 7:30pm / All Ages / \$15 ADV | \$18 DOS

79





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#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

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#### **SUNDAY, AUGUST 6**

YogaOm!Tap

10:30am • Hall Stage • AA

#### Trivia Mafia's Brunch Trivia

12pm • Bar Stage

#### **MONDAY, AUGUST 7**

Trivia Mafia w. Jiffy & Sierra

7pm • Bar Stage

#### **Fuzzy Math**

9:30pm • Bar Stage • 21+

#### **TUESDAY, AUGUST 8**

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HURSDAY, AUGUST 3 AZIZA, Suaka (NYC), Speedweed

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4 Maharaja (OH), Lived, Cloekwohlv,

Zig Zag Wanderer

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

Flesh Narc (TX), Thin Skin (TX), Obchod Na Korze, Nice Boys, aDeer aHorse

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

Barbarian (Italy), Peucharist (Vermont), Invidiosus, Verminoze, Plagued Insanity

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thu : august 3 9:30pm : **robat, sass,** total gaze

fri : august 4 7pm : laura and sean's movie and music trivia 10pm : the further adjustments junior varsity (ep release) king colt

sat: august 57pm : trivia mafia presents: 331 drinkin' spelling bee 10pm : collapsing stars (tour launch) the bad man

sun: august 6

3-5pm : rezo city: resonator guitar player series featuring: don fitzwater <sub>8pm</sub> : trivia mafia

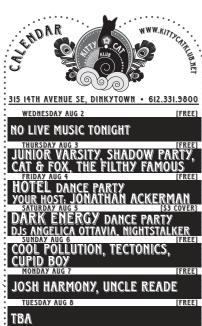
mon : august 7 8pm : the roe family singers 10pm: doug otto and friends

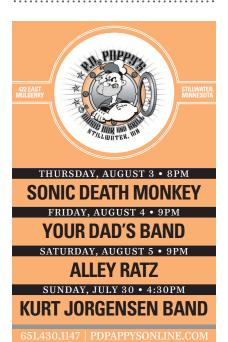
tue: august 8

6-8pm: t.e.e. - tuesday early evening 8:30pm : 331 club and fair state brewing onoperative present august consipracy series, featuring: series featuring nax graham & fam w/ ilika ward & the moonlight riders

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#### **MUSIC**

The Suburbs certainly have much to be thankful for, though they've weathered the typical ups and downs of a music career. In 1982, the band received a half-million dollar advance, subsequently released four albums on major labels, and played with acts like R.E.M. and the B-52s. And yet...

"We couldn't quite break into the upper echelons and just got frustrated and quit in '87," Poling says. "By 1993, we were totally bored and wondered why we stopped." The band reunited and began playing "recreationally," reclaiming their former glory on the release of 2013's Si Sauvage with new members like guitarists Jeremy Ylvisaker and Stevie Brantseg.

Though the Suburbs comprises much of Poling's adulthood, the band isn't the entirety of his identity. "I've no intention of being a rock star," he insists. "If that was what my life was, that would be a bummer to me."

Fair enough. But he's still a punk. During a break in our conversation, Poling admires the pool outside and asks an employee too young to know who the Suburbs even are-if it's open.

"Monday is when it officially opens," the employee replies.

"But what about unofficially?" Poling asks. "I'm sure no one would stop you." 🗉

CRITICS' PICKS

#### KENDRA SHANK

THE DUNSMORE ROOM AT CROONER'S LOUNGE, WEDNESDAY 8.2

Graced with a maverick spirit, virtuoso chops, and a naturally lovely voice, Kendra Shank has been a key member of the New York jazz scene for two decades, leading a hot quartet there. Her latest album, Half Moon, is a duo collaboration with pianist Geoffrey Keezer, another critically acclaimed jazz globetrotter (and an Eau Claire native), and they're a perfect match. Shank's idiosyncratic phrasing and evocative tonal colors yield unique song interpretations. Keezer's cerebral, quirky lyrical and rhythmic patterns are endlessly intriguing. They intuitively play off one another, constantly unveiling new angles for the other to explore. Here, Shank will be accompanied by pianist Phil Aaron and bassist Gordon Johnson. 7 p.m. \$20-\$45.6161 Highway 65 N.E., Fridley; 763-571-9020. -RICK MASON

#### WORRIERS

TRIPLE ROCK SOCIAL CLUB, THURSDAY 8.3

Brooklyn's Worriers broke out in 2013 as one of the most exciting bands on Don Giovanni Records, the reliable New Jersey punk label that has recently issued records by Waxahatchee, Screaming Females, and Downtown Boys. Even on that label's stacked roster, though, Worriers stand out for their

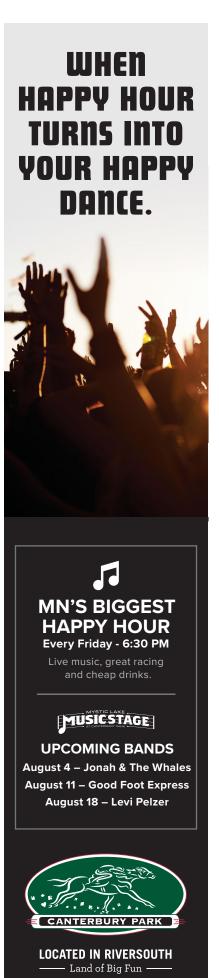




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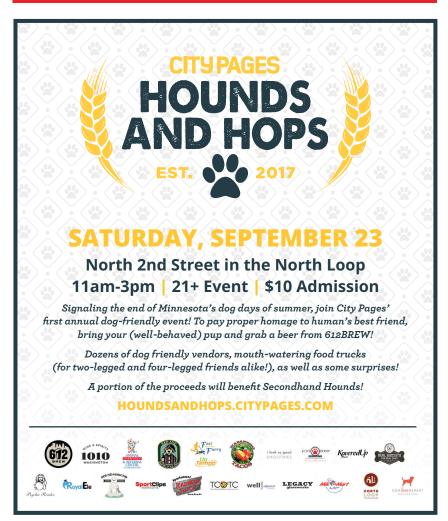
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#### **MUSIC CRITICS' PICKS**

pointedly political lyrics and knifing musical efficiency. The band's 2015 full-length debut, the Laura Jane Grace-produced Imaginary Life, wedded Lauren Denitzio's sneaky melodic instincts with a powerful lyrical purpose, particularly on the backto-back standouts "Yes All Cops" (a call for action against injustice and corruption) and "They / Them / Theirs" (advocating for gender-neutral language). Worriers recently moved to SideOneDummy Records, releasing a new single, "Future Me." Typesetter, Contentious, and 4th Curtis open, 18+, 8 p.m. \$8-\$10.629 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-333-7399. -MICHAEL MADDEN

#### GARY CLARK JR.

PALACE THEATRE, THURSDAY 8.3, FRIDAY 8.4

The raw immediacy of the blues is best captured live, as Texas guitarist and contemporary bluesman Gary Clark Jr. is well aware. Two of his four major label albums have been live ones, including Live/North America 2016, and Clark unleashes his true, unbridled character on stage: His prodigious guitar work (compared to Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughan) bucks, twitches, and screams in spirited eloquence, often reflecting the anguish of struggling characters. His singing probes new layers of expression too, particularly unveiling its deeply soulful component, and he increasingly favors a falsetto that invokes both Curtis Mayfield and Al Green. Even the elements of soul, gospel, funk, R&B, and hip-hop that set Clark's 21st-century blues on a more progressive path acquire fresh nuance. Austin blues singer/guitarist Jackie Venson opens. 8 p.m. \$45-\$80.17 W. Seventh Pl., St. Paul; 651-502-2259. - RICK MASON

#### BRYAN FERRY

PALACE THEATRE, SATURDAY 8.5

Roxy Music founder Bryan Ferry is one of the last surviving glam-rock icons, and he's hardly slowing down. The ever-dapper Englishman, now 71, has released vital music in each of the last five decades, from Roxy's supremely danceable glam/prog hybrids in the '70s, through his lush and seductive '80s solo material, to his latest album, 2014's Avonmore, a return to the sound of Ferry's most successful solo album, '85's Boys and Girls (a.k.a. the one with "Slave to Love"). But while Ferry has stayed productive, releasing three solo albums in the 2010s, his set lists these days normally don't feature any songs more recent than cuts from the '87 solo LP Bête Noire. Instead, he mostly plays Roxy hits, some older solo stuff, and covers like Dylan's "Simple Twist of Fate," Neil Young's "Like a Hurricane," and the Velvet Underground's "What Goes On." Judith Owen opens. 18+. 8 p.m. \$57-\$67. 17 W. Seventh Pl., St. Paul; 651-266-8989. -MICHAEL MADDEN





# Crossed Dressers

What do I do if my loved one kink-shames me?

y wife has been seriously ill for three years, and I have been her sole caregiver. The doctors here weren't getting the job done, so we made the difficult decision for her to move 2,000 miles away to start over and be near her family. Our sex life has been nonexistent since she became ill. She offered me a "hall pass" with two rules: 1) It couldn't be anyone I worked with and 2) she didn't want to know about it. I started to consider using it after she moved. But I didn't want to just find some random person on Tinder. You see, I am a cross-dresser. My wife knows. She's never seen me dressed and isn't interested in knowing more about it. So instead of paying for a traditional escort, I found someone who would dress me, do my makeup, go out to dinner with me, but no sex. We met three times. However, one time I did hire a trans woman who dressed me and we did have sex. Obviously, I had to lie at times about where I was when I was using my hall pass, but I considered it a white lie to meet Rule #2. But my wife flew home unannounced to get her things (with her ex-husband along to help) and found my clothes out and quickly got out of me what I had done. She was beyond pissed. She says I had a hall pass for sex but not cross-dressing. She belittled me for the crossdressing and said the sex was supposed to be a one-and-done thing. She knew I was a cross-dresser, and I derived more pleasure from this cross-dressing experience than having anonymous sex with an escort. My questions: Did I violate the hall pass? Was I wrong to cross-dress?

> DUDE RELISHING EROTIC SEXCAPADES SUDDENLY ENTERTAINING DIVORCE

Your wife went home to get well and "start over." And it sounds like she got well-at least well enough to fly-and started over with her ex-husband.

I don't think you were wrong to crossdress, DRESSED, and if you violated that hall pass, it was only because your soon-to-beex-wife didn't share all the rules with you until after you used it. It looks like a setup to me. Your soon-to-be-ex-wife gave you permission to fuck someone else-permission that came with rules that were disclosed and secret bylaws and codicils that were



Dan Savage

not-because, consciously or subconsciously, she wanted to catch you doing it wrong. Because now she can divorce you with a clear conscience, since she's not to blame for the split—you and your dick and your dresses are to blame.

You might want to brace yourself for some hardcore blaming and kink-shaming, DRESSED, and for the very real possibility she'll out you as a cheat and a crossdresser to family and friends. But however the divorce plays out, at least you'll soon be free to find a partner you don't have to hide your cross-dressing from.

I'm a 22-year-old nonbinary person and I'm debating whether to come out to my father as nonbinary. Complicating things is the fact that I tried to come out to him at 18 back when I thought I was "only" a hetero-leaning bi cross-dresser. He did not take the news well. Today we don't talk about it, and I think he pretends it never happened. I'm wanting to move toward living in a less-gender-conforming way—including changing my name-and am considering making a second attempt. Pros: not feeling I like I'm hiding who I am, maybe I get him off my back about kids, being able to be out on Facebook. Cons: screaming matches, strong possibility of being disowned and losing the modest amount of financial support I get from him, small possibility of him telling my mom (they're divorced). Any advice?

ONE FOOT OUT

What's more important to you, OFO, living authentically or living off your dad? If being your authentic self means giving up the money he sends you and you don't desperately need his money, the choice is obvious. But if his money is all that stands between you and gender-nonconforming homelessness, you might want to think through your options, the risks and the rewards, before going nonbinary official on Facebook.

#### mail@savagelove.net

Follow Dan on Twitter: @fakedansavage savagelovecast.com



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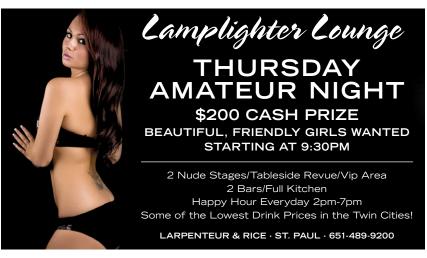
> \*Medically accurate. Like it should be.



651-645-0478





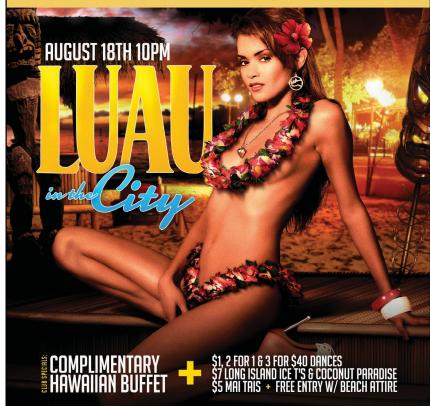






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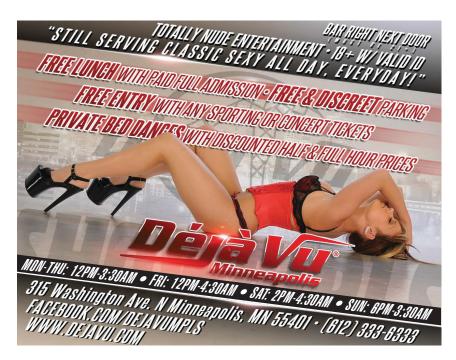
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#### IMAGINARY FRIENDS

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

#### **Across**

- 1. Yellen of the Fed
- 6. Punk or indie, e.g.
- 10. Holey footwear
- 15. Enticement from the kitchen
- 16. Cooking initialism coined by Rachael Ray
- 17. Popular 1980s-90s legal drama
- 18. Attempt some arithmetic?
- 20. "SNL" alum Cheri
- 21. Pointer-and-thumb shape on your left hand
- 22. "Network" newscaster Howard
- 23. Cooks on a rotisserie
- 24. E-5s from the Mile High City?
- 26. Prisoner's dream
- 29. Crossword curmudgeon Parker
- 30. Third strategy
- 31. Award for "Underground Railroad Game"
- 33. R-rated
- 37. Stuff that makes a Cambridge school smell better?
- 41. Merit badge holder
- 42. Requirement
- 43. Donald Glover's "Star Wars" role
- 44. Packaging wt.
- 45. Advertising avenue
- 47. Yemen or Oman, financially?
- 53. Put in a serape
- 54. Tube from the heart

- 55. Sine \_\_\_ non
- 58. Server's setback
- 59. Acquire shares of the pot?
- 61. Present time
- 62. Geometry homework
- 63. Persian speaker
- 64. Home run runs65. Pop singer Aimee
- 66. Some sexts

#### Down

- 1. Tease
- 2. \_\_\_ Sea (environmental tragedy of Kazakhstan)
- 3. Legendary Steelers coach Chuck
- 4. Pro at CPR
- 5. Sunbather's spot on a city roof, in slang
- 6. Make another backup of
- 7. Fertilized item
- Promising one
- . Mayweather achievements
- Product that kills 99.9% of viruses and bacteria
- 11. Boca \_\_\_\_
- 12. Soap acid
- 13. Monte \_\_\_\_
- 14. From Lucerne19. Urges
- 23. Have kittens
- 24. Oscar winner Judi
- 25. Spiritedness
- 26. Turntable meas.
- 27. Director Kazan
- 28. Rower's muscles
- 31. Lyric form
- 32. Pickup feature

- 33. Fancy hairstyle
- 4. Some office hookups
- 35. Ctrl-Z command
- 36. Fancy collar 38. Expand. as files
- 39. Flat land
- 40. Plautus wrote in it
- 44. Gives a speech
- 45. Comic Tracy
- Prado hangings
- 47. Had in mind
- 48. Choice words
- 49. Strong balanced hand opening
- 50. Burp
- 51. "OITNB" star Prepon
- 2. Pagan god whom Wednesday was named after
- 55. Squatter's muscle
- 56. Alt reader
- 57. "This purchase may have problems"
- 59. Hitting sound
- 0. Wine specification

#### Last Week's Answer

W	Ε	Р	Т		В	L	Α	S	Ε			Н	0	Ν
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